

~~1. A surface-treating support member for supporting a plurality of works, comprising an upper cage and a lower cage including a large number of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.~~

2. A surface-treating support member for supporting a plurality of works each having an ~~inside~~ <sup>inner</sup> diameter portion, comprising plate-like elements openably and closably foldable in a lengthwise direction, said plate-like elements being capable of defining a plurality of narrow sections each having a length corresponding to the inside diameter of the work in opened states.

3. A surface-treating support member according to claim 2, wherein said plate-like elements are openably and closably foldable by a hinge.

4. A surface treating holder comprising a wire which is coiled at distances in such a manner that it is formed as a spring-like tubular structure having spiral-line faces at opposite ends thereof, so that works can be accommodated in said tubular structure.

5. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein said tubular structure is a cylindrical structure.

6. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, further including an entanglement preventing spring wound around that portion of said wire which forms the side face of said tubular structure.

[illegible]

8. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein the central portion of said wire is closely wound at locations corresponding to the spiral-line faces of said tubular structure.

9. A surface treating holder according to claim 4, wherein said wire is formed of a stainless steel.

10. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works in a treating chamber, while rotating the works about their axes in spaced-apart states.

11. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 10, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

12. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 10, wherein said rotation of the works about their axes is conducted with the works supported by a support member rotated about its axes.

13. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 12, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

14. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 12, wherein a support member according to claim 1 is used.

15. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 14, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

16. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 12, wherein a support member according to claim 2 is used.

17. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 16, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

18. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 10, wherein each of the works is accommodated in corresponding one of ~~the~~ holders according to claim 4, and said holders are rotated about their axes within a porous cage-like rotatable member.

19. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 18, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

20. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works, while rotating them about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states.

21. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 20, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

22. A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 20, wherein said rotation of the works about their axes is carried out with the works supported by a support

100450-222300







of said rotary plates.

43. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said apparatus surface treating is a vacuum vapor deposition apparatus.

44. A surface treating apparatus according to claim 39, further including a means for transmitting a driving force provided by a driving shaft for rotating the support member about the rotational axis to said support member, as a driving force for rotating said support member about its axis.